PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY To: WRITTEN OPINION OF THE see form PCT/ISA/220 INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1) Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) Applicant's or agent's file reference FOR FURTHER ACTION see form PCT/ISA/220 See paragraph 2 below Priority date (day/month/year) International filing date (day/month/year) International application No. 13.06.2003 PCT/B2004/002497 11.06.2004 International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B32B27/34 Applicant TECNO COATING ENGINEERING S.R.L. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items: 1. Box No. I Basis of the opinion Box No. II Priority Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability ☐ Box No. III ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial Box No. V applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application **FURTHER ACTION** If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notifed the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered. If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later. For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/IB2004/002497

	Box N	o. I Basis of the opinion
1.	With re	egard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in guage in which it was field, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
	lar	his opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following inguage , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search nder Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2.	With re	egard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and sary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
	a. type	of material:
		a sequence listing
		table(s) related to the sequence listing
	b. form	nat of material:
		in written format
		in computer readable form
	c. time	of filing/furnishing:
		contained in the international application as filed.
		filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3	h: Cc	a addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto as been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional opies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as oppropriate, were furnished.
- 4	- Additi	onal comments:

International application No. PCT/IB2004/002497

	Вох	No. II	Priority				
1.	\boxtimes	The fol	lowing document has	s not beer	furnished	:	
		\boxtimes	copy of the earlier a	pplication	whose pri	ority has bee	n claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
			translation of the ea	ırlier appli	cation who	se priority ha	as been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).
		Conse	quently it has not be neless been establisl	en possibl hed on the	e to consic assumpti	der the validit on that the re	y of the priority claim. This opinion has elevant date is the claimed priority date.
2.		has he	pinion has been esta en found invalid (Ru ate indicated above	les 43 <i>bis.</i> :	1 and 64.1). Thus for th	claimed due to the fact that the priority claim e purposes of this opinion, the international late.
3.	Add	ditional o	observations, if nece	ssary:			
			•				
							ith record to possibly inventive step or
	Bo ind	x No. V Iustrial	Reasoned stater applicability; citation	nent und ons and e	er Rule 43 explanation	<i>bis</i> .1(a)(i) w ns supportir	ith regard to novelty, inventive step or ng such statement
1.		tement				-	
			Voo:	Claims	6-29		
	No	velty (N)	No:	Claims	1-5	
	lmı	ontivo c	oton (IS)	Vec.	Claims		
	IIIV	entive s	step (IS)	No:	Claims	1-29	
	Inc	lustrial a	applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-29	
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	No:	Claims		
2.	. Cit	ations a	and explanations				
	se	e separ	ate sheet				
_	Вс	x No. \	/II Certain defects	in the in	ternationa	I application	n
Т	he fo	ollowing	defects in the form of	or content	s of the int	ernational ap	oplication have been noted:
	se	e sepa	rate sheet				
		-					
_		av No. V	/III Certain observ	vations of	n the inter	national apt	olication

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/IB2004/002497

- 1	Box No. II Priority	·			<u>:</u>
. [not bee	n furnished	l:	
	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	olication	n whose pri	iority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and	d 66.7(a)).
				ose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis	
	nevertheless been establishe	d on the	e assumpti	der the validity of the priority claim. This of that the relevant date is the claimed p	priority date.
.	This opinion has been establi has been found invalid (Rules filing date indicated above is	43 <i>bis</i> .	1 and 64.1	rity had been claimed due to the fact that). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the relevant date.	the priority claim the international
	Additional observations, if necess	ary:			
	Box No. V Reasoned stateme industrial applicability; citation	ent und s and e	er Rule 43 explanatio	Bbis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, invense supporting such statement	ntive step or
	Statement				
	Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	6-29	
	, ,	No:	Claims	1-5	
	Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims		
		No:	Claims	1-29	
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-29	
		No:	Claims		
	Citations and explanations				
-	see separate sheet				
_	Box No. VII Certain defects in	the in	ternationa	application	<u> </u>
- h				ernational application have been noted:	
••	-				
	see separate sheet				. '
	Box No. VIII Certain observat	ions o	n the inter	national application	

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The following document is mentioned for the first time in this written opinion; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: EP-A-0800915

Novelty:

Document D1 discloses (cf. figure 1; column 1, lines 5 - 24; column 4, lines 20 - 37; the claims; column 7, line 45 - column 11, line 20) a blown (and thus biaxially oriented) film with shrink properties comprising in sequence the following layers:

layer 15: an outer nylon layer

layer 13: an adhesive layer (eg. anhydride modified polyolefin)

layer 11: a nylon layer (eg. nylon 6)

layer 10: an inner EVOH layer

layer 12: a nylon layer (eg. nylon 6)

layer 14: an adhesive layer (eg. anhydride modified polyolefin)

layer 16: an outer sealant layer (eg. LLDPE or LDPE or ionomer)

The layers are not crosslinked. The outer sealant layer melts at a lower temperature than the other layers. The three nylon layers have a higher Young's modulus than the other layers, whereas one of these layers is on the outside and the other layers are on the inside of the film. The three nylon layers are separated from each other by layers with lower Young modulus.

Hence, all features of independent product claim 1 are disclosed in combination in D1, making the subject-matter of this claim not novel; Article 33(2) PCT.

The subject-matter of dependent claims 2 - 5 also does not appear to be novel; Article 33(2) PCT.

The subject-matter of claims 6 - 29 differs from the subject-matter of D1 <u>at least</u> in that according to D1 an EVOH core layer is present, whereas according to the present

application the corresponding layer D either:

consists of a terionomer (i.e. in claims 7 - 12, 19 - 24) consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride (i.e. claims 13 - 15, 25, 26) consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer (i.e. claims 16, 17, 27, 28, 29)

consists of one of the above (claims 6, 18).

Hence, the subject-matter of claims 6 - 29 is novel in view of D1; Article 33(2) PCT.

Inventive Step:

The differences identified above, do not appear to lead to any technical effects. The problem underlying claims 6 - 29 can, therefore, only be regarded as to provide alternative shrink wrap films.

It would be obvious for the skilled person, starting from D1, to come up with all the alternative structures claimed in claims 6 - 29. Hence, no inventive step can be acknowledged for the subject-matter of these claims; Article 33(3) PCT.

Industrial Applicability:

The subject-matter of claims 1 - 29 is industrially applicable; Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

- 1) To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the document D1 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly summarised in an objective way.
- 2) To meet the requirements of Rule 6.3(b) PCT the independent claims should be properly cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art (see document D1) being placed in the preamble.

- 3) The reference to the patent application on page 4, line 5 should be replaced by a reference to it's publication number (EP-A-1410902). Since this document was published after the priority date of the present application, it's publication date (21.04.2004) should also be mentioned.
- 4) In order to expedite further examination you are requested to indicate with any possible reply the locations in the application as originally filed of the passages forming a basis for any possible amendments. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, according to the PCT Guidelines, 20.08, only <u>retyped</u> replacement sheets are allowed.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

The present set of claims does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT for the following reasons:

- 1) The expression "starting from the layer in contact with the product", which is present in the claims as from claim 6 is confusing. It is quite clear from the application as a whole, that protection is sought for the film only, i.e. without the product to be packaged. The present claims, however, relate to both the film and the packaged product. This objection may be overcome by defining that "in use the layer is in contact with the product".
- 2) Claims 7 29 repeat quite a bit of the wording of claim 6, making these claims and the set of claims not concise.
- 3) Claims 1 4 define a shrink film only by reference to desirable properties. In fact all films having these properties are claims, whereas there is support in the sense of Article 6 PCT only for a very limited number of such films, namely the films as defined in claims 7 29. Claims 1 4 do not meet the support requirements of Article 6 PCT.

Furthermore it does not appear to be appropriate for reasons of clarity, to define the films by reference to these desired properties only. As demonstrated in claims 6 - 29, it is perfectly possible the define the films of the present invention in terms of product features, such as the nature of the materials of the various layers.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

PCT/IB2004/002497

- 4) The terms "outside" and "inside" used in independent claim 1 are simply relative terms and cannot be used for distinguishing the film from any prior art film. Deletion of the terms might violate Article 19(2) PCT or 34(2)(b) PCT.
- 5) Having regard to the objections under the headings "novelty" and "inventive step" under section V, it is noted that claims 6 29 at the moment do not appear to be linked by same or corresponding special technical features in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT, meaning that no single general inventive concept in the sense of Rule 13.1 PCT can be distinguished. At the moment, it appears that the requirements of unity of invention are not met.

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BY TELEFAX / COURIER

The International Bureau of WIPO 34. Chemin des Colombettes **1211 GENEVE 20** Switzerland

Our Ref.: EL/1B1-18916

Milan, January 5th 2005

To the attention of Alicja Van der Heijden

International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/002497 filed on June 11th 2004 - Applicant: TECNO COATING ENGINEERING S.r.l.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to the written opinion of 11/11/2004, the following are the remarks of the applicant.

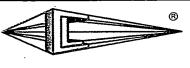
Re Item V

The applicant agrees with the examiner's opinion concerning claims 1, 2 and 5.

Nevertheless, as far as claims 3 and 4 are concerned, the applicant thinks that no teaching cam be found in document D1, about the problem of curling.

In claim 3 of the present application it is said that said two layers with a higher Young's modulus which are situated inside the film are located on the opposite side, in relation to the neutral plane of the film from the layer with a higher Young's modulus which lies on the outside of the film! This is an umportant feature, which cannot be found in D1.

The reason of said position inside the film is to balance the bending momentatue. to constrained strain of the various layers, after the process of braxial orientation In fact in the specification, at pag. 4 last paragraphs and pag. 7 lines 19 24, as well as in claim 4 of the present application is said that "the sequence of all the layers constituting said film, and their thickness, from which the distance of each of said layers from the neutral plane of said film derives, are determined in such a way that the sum of the moments exerted by said layers in relation to said neutral plane after the process of biaxial orientation is substantially nil".



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In view of above, the applicant is of the opinion that the subject matter of claims 6 to 29 has an inventive; in fact all the formulations involved comprise "two layers with a higher Young's modulus which are situated inside the film are located on the opposite side, in relation to the neutral plane of the film, from the layer with a higher Young's modulus which lies on the outside of the film", said claims 6 to 29 being dependent from claim 3.

In addition, please note that the film disclosed in D1 is quite different from the film according to the present application.

The film according to D1 is neither heat shrinkable nor bioriented, but only thermoformable, as it appears from the production method of the same (e.g. as claimed in claim 13). In fact, since a phase of biaxial cold stretching is missing, the film cannot be heat shirikable or bioriented.

A film according to D1 can be thermoformed because "preferably has a thickness of from 2 to 10 mils (50 - 250 \square m), most preferably from 2.5 to 7.5 mils (63 - 190 \square m)" (column 7 - lines 47-48, column 11 - lines 25-26, column 12 - lines 12-13, column 13 - lines 5-6 and 42-43)

A film having said thickness is apt to be thermoformed, so it doesn't be heat shirnkable and the curling effect is not so important.

At the light of the above, we have amended the claims, to make reference to these features.

Please find, enclosed herewith, a new set of claims, in which old claims 1 to 3 have been merged into a new independent claim.

The dependent claims have been amended accordingly

Re Item VII

The document D1 has been identified in the description and the relevant prior art disclosed has been briefly summarized. Please find enclosed page 3 amended of the application.

The prior art from D1 just have been placed in the preamble of new claim 1.



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The reference to the patent application on page 4, line 5 of the present patent application has been modified as indicated.

Re Item VIII

- The expression in claim 6 ("the layer in contact ...") has been amended as indicated.
- Old claims 7 29 have been modified according to your request.
- Claim 1 to 4 defines shrink film comprising materials having specific properties, that is the physical properties that are necessary to meet the desired properties of the film. So the film isn't defined by reference to desirable properties of it, said film being the result of using such specific materials.
- The terms "outside" and "inside" have been substituted in claim 1.

The formulations claimed in claims 6 to 29 are embodiments of the invention claimed in original claims 1 to 5. In fact the various layers claimed are exactly the ones having the physical properties that are necessary to meet the desired properties of the film and their position along the thickness is according to old claim 3 of the present application.

As regards box No. Π – Priority, you can find herewith enclosed a PCT notification attesting the date of receipt of priority document of the present application.

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technique makes said polymers partly unmeltable, and in any event increases their melting point. Melting of the layers which come into contact with the heating plates during welding is consequently prevented by crosslinking them.

More recently, polyvinylidene chloride copolymer has been partly replaced by another polymer with barrier properties, namely ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer (EVOH).

These shrink film structures usually comprise EVOH in the middle layer, sandwiched by polyolefins in the outer layers. Adherence between the various layers can be obtained with the use of special types of modified polyolefins, also called "adhesives".

Mechanical strength and adherence between the layers can be improved by subjecting the film to irradiation with high-energy particles.

However, although the crosslinking technique solves the welding problem without causing curling and gives the film good mechanical strength, it also gives rise to a serious problem, because it makes the polymers that constitute the film partly unmeltable, and this prevents them from being recycled.

An alternative technique to selective crosslinking, which would solve the welding problems and increase the mechanical strength of the film, would be to use high-strength polymers with a high melting point in the outer layer of the film.

- However, in this case the two polymers, ie. the outer and inner ones, differ not only in terms of melting point but also of their modulus of elasticity and degree of crystallinity. As a result, differentiated tensions develop in the structure of the film and the film is pulled to one side, giving rise to the problem of curling already described.
 - A third problem is loss of transparency (haze) and gloss by the film after shrinking at the application stage. This problem, which adversely affects the final European patent application EP0800 315 42 discloses a multilayer film using hight foung modulus in the outer layer, but the stacking is not belonced, so the film is subjected to carl.

appearance of the packaging, is mainly due to poor adherence between the layers, which shrink in different ways, and possibly to surface damage caused by the heat applied to obtain the shrinkage.

The above-mentioned problems involved in the prior art are solved by a plastic film conforming to patent application no. <u>MI2002A 002159</u> filed by the present applicant, namely a multilayer, non-crosslinked shrink film with gas barrier properties, characterised by:

- exceptional mechanical strength,
- easy welding and good welding resistance,
- optical characteristics superior to those of ordinary products on the market,
 - little or no curling, despite its asymmetrical structure,
 - good shrinkage characteristics,
 - good adherence to the packaged contents,
 - good oxygen and aqueous steam barrier properties.
- All these characteristics have been obtained without the need to subject the film to ionising radiation treatment, but using a polymer with high mechanical strength and a high Young's modulus, which melts at a high temperature, in the outer layer.

 In order to eliminate the problem of curling, other layers constituted by polymers with a high Young's modulus are inserted in a suitable position inside the laminate; said layers act in such a way as to balance the effect of the outer layer, thus greatly reducing curling, and even eliminating it entirely in some compositions. However, experiments conducted with numerous compositions demonstrate that these results tend to be somewhat unpredictable. This problem arises when the number of layers with a high modulus is greater than two and, in accordance with said patent application, two or more of said layers are situated inside the laminate on the side of the neutral layer, opposite the side on which the external layer with

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CLAIMS

- 1. Shrink film for wrapping foodstuffs, comprising:
 - a plurality of overlaid layers constituted by non-crosslinked thermoplastic polymers of different natures, wherein the material that constitutes one of the outer layers melts at a lower temperature than the materials that constitute the other layers;
 - three layers constituted by polymers having a Young's modulus substantially higher than that of the polymers which constitute the other

layers;

-characterised in that:

one of the two outer layer

- one of said three layers with a higher Young's modulus is en-the-outside
 of the film, whereas the other two layers with a higher Young's modulus lineer layers
 are on the inside of the film;
- each of said three layers with a higher Young's modulus is separated from the other layers with a higher Young's modulus by at least one layer with a lower Young's modulus;
- 2. Film as claimed-in-claim 1, characterised in that said three layers with a higher Young's modulus are highly impermeable to gases, especially oxygen and aqueous steam,
- 3. Film as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said two layers with a higher Young's modulus which are situated inside the film are located on the opposite side, in relation to the neutral plane of the film, from the layer with a higher Young's modulus which lies on the outside of the film.
- Film as claimed in claim \$\frac{1}{2}\$, characterised in that the sequence of all the layers constituting said film, and their thickness, from which the distance of each of said layers from the neutral plane of said film derives, are determined in such

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a way that the sum of the moments exerted by said layers in relation to said neutral plane after the process of biaxial orientation is substantially nil, wherein:

- the moment exerted by a single layer in relation to the neutral plane is equal to the product of the membrane force exerted by said layer and the distance of the average plane of said layer from the neutral plane of the film;
- the membrane force exerted by said layer is equal to the product of the Young's modulus of the material which constitutes said layer, the thickness of said layer and the prevented shrinkage, expressed as a percentage.
- 5. Film as claimed in claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the layers with a higher Young's modulus are constituted by polymers of the polyamide family.
- Film as claimed in claims 1 to 5, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the internal part
 of the wrapping, and can be constituted by ionomers containing zinc or
 sodium, a low-density polyethylene or linear low-density polyethylene
 (LDPE/LLDPE), or an ethylene or octene plastomer;
 - layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among terionomers, or ethylene modified with maleic anhydride copolymers, or an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6, PA 6/66,

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amorphous or aliphatic PA or a mixture thereof, possibly with the addition of terionomers;

- layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among terionomers, or ethylene modified with maleic anhydride copolymers, or of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer, and may be equal to or different from layer B;
- layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6, PA 6/66, amorphous or aliphatic PA or a mixture thereof, possibly with the addition of terionomers, and may be equal to or different from layer C, alternatively, PVA or PGA can be used;
- layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among terionomers, or ethylene modified with maleic anhydride copolymers, or of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer, and may be equal to or different from layers B and D;
- layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and fourth barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6 or PA 6/66.
- Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - V layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Y layer B, thickness 5 to 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - ✓ layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)

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- consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
 6/66;
- Y layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Y layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
- Ylayer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Ylayer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, G, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Y layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Ylayer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 - consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 and aliphatic PA;
 - Flayer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Vlayer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
 - e alayer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to

said

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aqueous steam) - consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.

- Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- Vlayer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Tlayer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - Tlayer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
- consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA blended
 with a terionomer;
 - adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
 - Ylayer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 20 7 10. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Y layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
- Tlayer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;

said

- Ylayer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 - consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
 6/66;

Said

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- Y layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Tlayer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;
- Y layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
 - 8 41. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Ylayer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - seid
 ``Iayer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
- 20 consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA6/66;
 - adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Y layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA blended with a terionomer;

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- Y layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 5 9 42. Film as claimed in claim \$\frac{2}{6}\$; characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Said

 Y layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
- 10 Y layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - Iayer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
- 15 Valuer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Y layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of an aliphatic PA polymer;
- Y layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
 - 10 15. Film as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product,
- 25 composed as follows:

 Said

 Iayer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of

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the wrapping, and is constituted by an ethylene or octene plastomer

● layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer – consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;

Said

Y layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)

- consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;

- Y layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
- said
 I layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
- 10 Tlayer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
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 11 44. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,
- B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - *Y layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by LLDPE;
 - layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 - consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;
 - Y layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
- 25 Tlayer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;

- said

 Vlayer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
- Y layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 5 12 45. Film as claimed in claim 6; characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B; C; D; E; F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Vlayer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by LDPE;
- 10 layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - → layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)

 consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + PA 6;
 - Valuer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - Y layer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
 - Y layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- 20 γ layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 13 46. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- Valuer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;

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- layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;

 layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 - consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
 6/66;
 - layer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - steam) consists of PVA (polyvinyl alcohol);
- layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 14 47. Film as claimed in claim $\frac{3}{6}$, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,
- B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - layer A, thickness 10 to 30%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - said
 Y layer B, thickness 5 to 15%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - ડ્રુવર્ષ • Y layer C, thickness 10 to 20%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam)
 - consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
 6/66;
 - Valuer D, thickness 10 to 20%, second adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - Said

 Yayer E, thickness 10 to 20%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous

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steam) - consists of PGA (polyglycolic acid);

- layer F, thickness 5 to 15%, third adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- layer G, thickness 5 to 25%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 15 48: Film as claimed in claim \$\frac{2}{6}\$, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and can be constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium, a low-density polyethylene or linear low-density polyethylene (LDPE/LLDPE), or an ethylene or octene plastomer;
 - Tlayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among ethylene copolymers or terionomers modified with maleic anhydride, or of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
 - layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6, PA 6/66, amorphous or aliphatic PA or a mixture thereof, possibly with the addition of terionomers;
 - Vlayer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among terionomers, or ethylene modified with maleic anhydride copolymers, or of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer, and may be equal to or different from layer B;
 - 25 Y layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6, PA 6/66,

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amorphous or aliphatic PA or a mixture thereof, possibly with the addition of terionomers, and may be equal to or different from layer C; alternatively, PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) or PGA (polyglycolic acid) can be used;

- layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among terionomers, or ethylene modified with maleic anhydride copolymers, or of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer, and may be equal to or different from layers B and D;
- layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and fourth barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among PA 6 and PA 6/66.
- He He. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, B, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- Vlayer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Tayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - Tlayer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA 6/66;
 - ✓ layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Vlayer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
- 25 Value Iayer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;

- layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 17 20. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - said
 Tlayer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Tlayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + aliphatic PA;
 - Player D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Tayer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) –
 consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
- 15 Tlayer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - ↑ Tayer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 18 -21. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,
- 20 B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Tlayer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Tlayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer,
- Tlayer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA blended

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with a terionomer;

- Valuer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Tlayer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
- Value Iayer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 10 22. Film as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - Y layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - T layer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - Tlayer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA 6/66;
 - Y layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Seid

 Tayer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) –

 consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;
 - Tlayer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- 25 Sald 25 layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.

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- 20-23. Film as claimed in claim \$\frac{5}{6}\$, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- Y layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the

 wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Tlayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
 - Tlayer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA 6/66;
- 10 ≤≥≥√d

 Tlayer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Tlayer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA blended with a terionomer;
- 15 layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
 - Tlayer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 24. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,
- 20 B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - ടപ്പ് • Y layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer – constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
 - Y layer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
- or layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) − consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA

20

6/66;

- ≼aid
 ★ layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- Y layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) –
 consists of an aliphatic PA polymer;
- Valuer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an adhesive polymer selected from among the terionomers;
- T layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 10 25. Film as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
 - layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by an ethylene or octene plastomer;
- 15 Valuer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;
 - ◆ Y layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - Y layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
 - seid
 Y layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
- Y layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.

- 23 26. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and C), starting from the layer in contact with the product, composed as follows:
- Y layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by LLDPE;
 - layer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - Y layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + amorphous PA;
- 10 layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - Y layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
 - Y layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of LLDPE modified with maleic anhydride;
 - Vlayer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
- 24 27. Film as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A, B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product,
- 20 <u>composed as follows:</u>

- Y layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by LDPE;
- layer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- 25 layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a mixture of polyamides PA 6/66 + PA 6;

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	said • layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer – consists of an
	EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
	• T layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) –
	consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66;
5	said • Y layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer – consists of an
	EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
	• layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to
	aqueous steam) – consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.
25 28.	: Film as claimed in claim 6 , characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,
10	B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer in contact with the product,
	-composed as follows:
	layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer – constitutes the inner part of the
	wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
-	Said Tayer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer – consists of a terionomer;
15	Said Tayer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) –
	consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA
•	6/66;
Anna Maria Roman Stran 1	• Tlayer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer – consists of ar
	EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
20	• layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) -

20 consists of PVA (polyvinyl alcohol);

> •Y layer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer - consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;

• Y layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) - consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.

26 29. Film as claimed in claimed; characterised in that it comprises seven layers (A,

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B, C, D, E, F and G), starting from the layer-in-contact with the product, composed as follows:

- layer A, thickness 20%, welding layer constitutes the inner part of the wrapping, and is constituted by ionomers containing zinc or sodium;
- layer B, thickness 10%, first adhesive layer consists of a terionomer;
- layer C, thickness 15%, first barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer selected from among polyamides PA 6/66;
- layer D, thickness 15%, second adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- layer E, thickness 15%, second barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of PGA (polyglycolic acid);
- Tlayer F, thickness 10%, third adhesive layer consists of an EVA/ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer;
- layer G, thickness 15%, outer layer and third barrier layer (mainly to aqueous steam) consists of a polyamide polymer PA 6/66.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

MARSI, Graziella CON LOR S.p.A. Via Renato Fucini, 5 I-20133 Milano Italy

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 07 October 2004 (07.10.2004)	,
Applicant's or agent's file reference	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/IB2004/002497	International filing date (day/month/year) 11 June 2004 (11.06.2004)
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- TECNO COATING ENGINEERING S.r.L et al
- 1. By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
- 2. (If applicable) The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
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Priority date
Priority application No.
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13 June 2003 (13.06.2003)
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